

DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY AND ITS PRINCIPLES: STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF DEMOCRACY

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Democracy is a system of government based on citizens' participation in the organization of authorities. The famous US president Abraham Lincoln defined democracy as: "Government of the people, by the people, for the people". It is based on the principles of distribution of authority, rule of law, pluralism, publicity, independence, legality, majority election and others [3].

"Government of the people" defines citizens as the single power, which is entrusted with authority. That is why the bodies of state power are responsible for people.

"By the people" means the authority is realized by elected representatives or citizens directly.

"For the people" concerns the authority which must guarantee that legal interests of the state, rights and freedoms of its citizens are ensured.

The major elements of modern democracy are equality, accountability and citizens' participation, rule of law, regular free and fair election, transparency and protection of the human rights of all citizens [1].

Equality means that all citizens have the same rights, freedoms and obligations, which are provided by law. Nobody can take exceptional position.

Accountability is the demand for the officials to inform people about their activities and results. They must act according to the will and wishes of people but not for themselves.

The rule of law is the principle, which presumes that no one can break the law, because it is protected by the state. If a person does it, he or she will be punished by law. Everyone must observe laws.

Citizens' participation means that only citizens can form bodies of the state authority. There are many forms of it including voting in elections, making opposition to the state authority, paying taxes, being member of social organization or form an own association. According to the transparency, government is responsible for citizens. Because the people must be aware of what is happening in the country. In a democratic society, the press and people are able to get information about what decisions are being made by whom and why. Furthermore, democratic state must protect legal interests, rights and freedoms of its citizens.

However, it is a mistake to say that democracy is full freedom of the people. Democracy sets limits for the citizens' behavior. They do not only participate and exercise their rights but also obey certain principles and rules of a democratic society. Citizens have to respect their own rights and rights of other people. They can make opposition to the state authority but not reject the government's authority.

Democracy has its own strengths and weaknesses. As for strengths, democracy is the basis of civilized states. Its principles ensure peaceful and legal interaction between people. Secondly, democracy is a single system which allows changing political administration without changing policy. Thirdly, it guarantees protection of interests, rights and freedoms of citizens and makes opposition to the state authority.

As for weaknesses, parties and politicians sacrifice long-term goals for success in the elections. Furthermore, democratic states depend on citizens, which can abuse their freedom. That is why democracy requires prepared and fair society and achievement of compromise. Democracy suggests pluralism, which can have negative results. Because if opinions of one organization are always ignored it may turn against democracy.

To sum up, democracy is the best system of government, which has its own strengths and weaknesses. Its principles and features prove that there are more strengths than weaknesses. Only democracy can guarantee that legal interests of the state, rights and freedoms of its citizens are ensured.

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THE DRAMATIC FATE OF THE UKRAINIAN POLEMICIST GREGORY SKYBINSKY

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Grigorii Skibinsky - Ukrainian writer, translator, doctor of theology . He was born in Volyn in the middle of the 17th century. (the exact date and place of birth are not known, approximately in the 1660s pp.). After graduating from the parish school, heI decided to continue his education. The youth who intended to study theology more thoroughly, in those days was compelled to travel abroad and to receive education under the patronage of the Catholic Church.

So, in 1688, Gregory went to Rome to obtain higher education. For this he had to renounce Orthodoxy, as well as to everyone who arrives "in the papal region with the requirement of learning" and to accept the basic tenets of the Roman Catholic Church. In Rome, he spent eight years studying mathematics, philosophy